

AUGUST 2004

SOUTHERN COMMAND

Department of Public Safety

Nevada Highway Patrol

# SAFESTAT REPORT

*Nevada Highway Patrol*

Captain Ellison for Major Phil Tilt

## Overview

In August 2004, the Southern Command percentage of filled authorized traffic sergeant and trooper positions increased. The increase reflects the new hires in the southern academy. Although the Highway Patrol has filled a number of vacancies for the Southern Command, attrition continues to erode the staffing levels. During August there were five resignations and three retirements. This means the Southern Command Traffic Operations is still severely under staffed. During the past months, we have continued to lose experienced personnel to other local agencies as well as retirements, and struggle with the substantial lack of personnel working the road.

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Southern Command personnel handled 925 crashes as compared to 992 crashes in August of 2003. This was a decrease of 6.8%. Crashes resulting in fatalities increased by 300% when compared to August 2003. In actual numbers there were 8 fatal crashes in August 2004 as compared to 2 fatal crashes in August 2003. The largest reduction of crashes was an 11% decline in property damage crashes. The Southern Command preliminary documentation shows a 70% decline in the overall number of commercial vehicle crashes. Of the 25 commercial crashes investigated this month, there were no fatalities; 20 resulted in injuries, and the remainder was property damage only. Crashes involving commercial vehicles represented 2.7% of the total crashes handled by the Southern Command.

The Southern Command had an increase in overall enforcement in August 2004. All reportable categories were up as compared to last month and last year. The only category to show a slight decline was speed enforcement. Overall enforcement increased 15.8% compared to last year and 33.2% as compared to last month. The Commercial Operations Section showed significant increases in total trucks weighed, overweight citations, and commercial vehicle inspections completed. The most notable increase was in total inspections.

The 800 MHz Nevada Shared Radio System (NSRS) went on-line in the Southern Command on the 25<sup>th</sup> of August after a build out of the M/A-Com consoles were complete. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September at 0800 hours, the decision was made to revert to the 150 MHz DPS system after debilitating problems between NHP dispatch and field units were deemed to compromise officer safety. Currently, representatives of M/A-Com, NDOT and Nevada Power Company are working to identify and mitigate problems that have been encountered.

Southern Command personnel continue to perform their duties under increasing work loads in a professional manner; Troopers logged 19,696 contacts with the public in August. In addition to field enforcement and response to traffic crashes, these incidents included: motorist assists, debris removal, medical assists, allied agency assistance, and traffic hazard mitigation. I commend them for their hard work and dedication.

## CRASH ANALYSIS AND OVERVIEW

	August 2004		August 2003	% Change		July 04	% Change
Total Crashes	925		992	-6.8%		1012	-8.6%
Property crashes [including commercial vehicles]	642		721	-11.0%		720	-10.8%
Injury crashes [including commercial vehicles]	275		269	2.2%		277	-0.7%
Fatal crashes [including commercial vehicles]	8		2	300.0%		15	-46.7%
DUI crashes [DUI charged]	69		57	21.1%		37	86.5%
Total persons killed in fatal crashes	8		2	300.0%		15	-46.7%
Total drivers killed without seatbelts	1		1	0.0%		8	-87.5%
Total passengers killed without seatbelts	3		0	300.0%		0	300.0%
Total drivers killed with seatbelts	2		1	100.0%		1	100.0%
Total passengers killed with seatbelts	1		0	100.0%		1	0.0%
Total persons killed - seatbelts not applicable	1		0	100.0%		5	80.0%
Total number of commercial vehicle crashes	25		84	-70.2%		43	-41.9%
Property crashes involving commercial vehicle	20		70	-71.4%		36	-44.4%
Injury crashes involving commercial vehicle	5		14	-64.3%		7	-28.6%
Fatal crashes involving commercial vehicle	0		0	0.0%		0	0.0%

## CRASH ANALYSIS

- ✱ Percentage of fatal crashes to total crashes 0.9%
- ✱ Percentage of DUI crashes to total crashes 7.5%
- ✱ Percentage of persons killed *without* seatbelts to total persons killed 57.1%
- ✱ Percentage of Commercial Vehicle crashes to total crashes 2.7%
- ✱ Total crashes down 6.8% compared to last year.
- ✱ Commercial vehicle crashes down 70% from last year.
- ✱ Property damage crashes dropped 11%.

## FIELD ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

[Analysis and review of current reporting period, versus same period in previous fiscal year, versus previous reporting period]

TRAFFIC OPERATIONS	August 04		August 03	% Change		July 04	% Change
DUI arrests from crashes ##	69		57	21.1%		37	86.5%
DUI arrests <i>prior</i> to crashes ##	154		125	23.2%		134	14.9%
Other arrests	1041		755	37.9%		659	58.0%
Total persons arrested (DUI included) ##	472		341	38.4%		304	55.3%
Speed violations	2578		2882	-10.5%		2523	2.2%
Hazardous moving violations	2521		1910	32.0%		1687	49.4%
Occupant restraint violations * ##	680		515	32.0%		530	28.3%
Total violations [above violations included]	10654		9204	15.8%		8001	33.2%
<b>COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS</b>							
Hazardous moving violations - citations/arrests	29		59	-50.8%		80	-63.8%
Other traffic violations - citations/arrests	95		142	-33.1%		270	-64.8%
Total safety inspections [level 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6]	615		401	53.4%		610	0.8%
Terminal inspections [level 5] CR only	1		N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A
Total safety violations -- citation	217		195	11.3%		331	-34.4%
Total safety violations -- repair order	1357		1535	-11.6%		2267	-40.1%
Total vehicles placed "Out of Service"	90		105	-14.3%		160	-43.8%
Total drivers placed "Out of Service"	50		50	0.0%		66	-24.2%
Total school buses inspected	337		195	72.8%		474	-28.9%
Total school buses placed "Out of Service"	46		20	130.0%		80	-42.5%
Total trucks weighed	79		59	33.9%		541	-85.4%
Total overweight citations	14		10	40.0%		113	-87.6%
Total dyed fuel inspections	467		407	14.7%		616	-24.2%
Total dyed fuel citations	0		1	-100.0%		1	-100.0%

\*Seatbelt and Child Restraint

## Commercial Operations Activity Included

## OPERATIONS ANALYSIS

- ✿ Average BAC 0.15%
- ✿ Average age of DUI arrests: 35 years
- ✿ 16% of DUI drivers arrested tested positive for Controlled Substance.
- ✿ 9% of drivers arrested had prior DUI convictions.
- ✿ Enforcement is up 15% from last year and 33% from last month.
- ✿ Overweight citations up 40% totaling \$15,993.00 in fines.
- ✿ Commercial Vehicle inspections are up 53% from last year.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS**

### **Southern Command Public Safety Dispatch Center**

- ✱ 712 Media Calls Received. Up 6% from last month and up 19% from last year.
- ✱ 130,538+ Radio Transmissions.
  - July 2004 average daily radio transmissions per shift
    - Graveyard 841
    - Day Shift 1,490
    - Swing Shift 1,878
- ✱ 37425 telephone calls. Up 4.68% from last month and down 5.22% from July 2003.
  - Average daily phone calls per shift
    - Graveyard 260
    - Day Shift 452
    - Swing Shift 558
- ✱ 222 Call Box incidents (a 41.40% increase from July 2004)

### **Contract Services**

- ✱ 10 Contracts using 298 work hours for \$17,661.50. 60% increase.

### **Evidence**

- ✱ 17% increase of evidence processed compared to last year.
- ✱ Nevada Highway Patrol responsible for 96.4% of case submissions.
- ✱ Parole and Probation responsible for 3.6% of case submissions.

### **Court Services**

- ✱ 169 Bench warrants received from area courts.
- ✱ 227 warrants cleared from NCJIS.
- ✱ 1805 warrants validated.
- ✱ 15 instate prisoner transports arranged.

### **Data Entry**

- ✱ Accident backlog reducing due to IPAQ use in field.
- ✱ 4 months behind in citation entry.

### **Records Section**

- ✱ 835 Visitors at front counter. 10% increase from last year.
- ✱ 1096 crash reports processed.
- ✱ 37 Incident Reports processed.
- ✱ 188 Impounded vehicle releases issued.
- ✱ 6,028 copies of crash reports mailed out. 6% increase from last year.

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## COMMENDATIONS

- ✱ 3 from the public to sworn
- ✱ 1 from the public to civilians
- ✱ 44 from command to sworn
- ✱ 1 from civilian to civilian
- ✱ 2 from allied agencies
- ✱ 4 certificates of appreciation from command to sworn
- ✱ 13 awards from command to sworn
- ✱ 3 awards from command to civilians

## PERSONNEL

- ✱ 5 Resignations
- ✱ 3 Retirements

## PUBLIC INFORMATION

- **Nellis Air Force Base Incoming Airman's Briefing.**  
August 3rd, 17th, 31st, 2004
- **Lions Club Briefing:** Members were briefed about manpower, H.E.A.T. program, and an open format for general questions.  
August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2004
- **Clark County Parks and Recreations Visit to NHP:** 24 teens visited NHP for three hours. August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2004
- **Nellis DUI Lecture and Educational Debrief**  
700 airmen from the 57<sup>th</sup> Equipment Maintenance Squad were presented a DUI lecture. August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2004
- **Indian Springs Air force Base:**  
250 airmen from the 757 AMXS Crusaders were presented a DUI lecture. August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2004
- **NHP/CHP "We Don't Want Your Business" Campaign**  
Joint campaign to kick off September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2004 started off early with several pro-active stories about the two agencies working together to keep the public alive on I-15. Las Vegas Sun August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2004 and RJ August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2004

"Whether you think you can or think you can't -- you are right."

Henry Ford